

DIOCESAN COUNCIL MINUTES
October 4, 2012

His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin convened a meeting of the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the West at Holy Transfiguration Cathedral, Denver, Colorado, at 10:45 a.m. on Thursday, October 4, 2012.

Present: Archbishop Benjamin, Archpriest Ian MacKinnon, Newly-Elected Deans: Archpriest Basil Rhodes (Pacific Central Deanery), Archpriest Lawrence Russell (Pacific Southwest Deanery), Archpriest John Pierce (Pacific Northwest Deanery), Archpriest Matthew Tate (Mission Deanery), Archpriest Anthony Karbo (Rocky Mountain Deanery) and Archpriest David Brum (Desert Deanery); Elected Members: Archpriest David Lowell, Archpriest John Dresko, Archpriest Lawrence Margitich, Archpriest Michael Anderson, Priest Damian Kuolt, Priest Andrew Cuneo, Deacon Anthony Dyl, Subdeacon Paul Pilipenko, Subdeacon Johann Morse, Subdeacon Wesley Smith, Mary Caetta, Dorothy Nowik, Ivan Pouschine, and Diocesan Administrative Assistant, Andrew Smith.

Welcome - His Eminence welcomed the newly-elected members of the Diocesan Council and thanked all those present for their willingness to serve the Diocese of the West through their membership on the Diocesan Council.

Appointments – His Eminence appointed the following diocesan officers: Archpriest Ian MacKinnon, Chancellor; Mary Caetta, Treasurer; Archpriest David Brum, Secretary of the Diocesan Council. His Eminence also confirmed the election of the Deans, as listed above.

Discussions/Actions –

Health Insurance - His Eminence informed the Diocesan Council of the current situation concerning Matushka Mary Henry, wife of Priest Peter Henry, Saint Peter the Aleut Mission, Lake Havasu, AZ. Matushka Mary suffers from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and temporarily needs assistance with health insurance coverage. His Eminence expressed his desire that the Diocesan Council provide financial assistance for three months. There was consensus that the Diocesan Council assist them in this regard. It was moved and seconded (Tate/Caetta):

“That a payment of \$2,000.00 for three consecutive months (\$6,000.00 total) be made to assist Father Peter and Matushka Mary Henry with Matushka’s healthcare coverage.” **Motion Carried.**

Archpriest Matthew Tate will email Mary Caetta authorizing that these monies be dispersed specifically from the mission stipend fund.

Clergy Evaluation Fees - Discussion took place concerning the payment of fees relating to a specific clergy psychological evaluation. It was noted that funds are already designated for such evaluations in the diocesan budget and that a payment in the amount of \$280.00 should be made in this case.

Saint John of San Francisco Monastery - Archbishop Benjamin led a discussion concerning the recent developments at Saint John of San Francisco Monastery, Manton, CA. Father Meletios (Webber) has resigned as abbot of the monastery, will be released from the Orthodox Church in America, and will return to Europe in the near future. After the departure of six monks from the monastery, six monks now remain. There is an outstanding balance of approximately \$70,000.00 in outstanding credit card debt. Additionally, His Eminence noted that the monastery pays a monthly mortgage in the amount of \$5,000.00. Due to the departure of the younger, physically sturdier monks and the unavailability of the mailing list of benefactors due to its unauthorized removal from the monastery, the monastic brotherhood is facing significant challenges in meeting its financial responsibilities. Because of the role the monastery plays in the life of our diocese and with the hope that it will soon recover from its recent difficulties, there was a consensus that the diocese should provide the monastery with financial assistance at this time, in the form of a loan. This loan would be made to pay off the \$70,000.00 credit card debt and to provide for payment of six months of the monastery's mortgage, each payment in the amount of \$5,000.00. It was moved and seconded (Tate/Pouschine):

“That the Diocesan Council authorize a zero percent (0%) loan in the amount of \$100,000.00 to the Saint John of San Francisco Monastery, Manton, CA, drawn from the Point Reyes funds, with re-payment of the loan to be made within five years. These monies are for repayment of the \$70,000.00 in credit card debt and for payment of the monthly mortgage in the amount of \$5,000.00 for six months;

That the diocesan finance committee be authorized to oversee the distribution of the loaned monies and that it also review the monastery's financial records and assess the long-term financial situation and income potential; and

That the diocesan finance council review the monastery by-laws and, if contingencies concerning the disposition of property to the Diocese in the event of defaulting on the loan are not made within the by-laws, that it proceed to secure the loan by a lien on the monastery property.”

Motion carried.

Appointment of Committees –His Eminence confirmed the following (re)appointments to diocesan committees:

Audit Committee: Archpriest David Brum; Subdeacon Paul Pilipenko, Maha Estephan.

Finance Committee: Dorothy Nowik, Archpriest Matthew Tate, and Archpriest John Dresko.

Mission Board: Archpriest Matthew Tate, Archpriest Basil Rhodes, Archpriest Lawrence Russell, Archpriest Lawrence Margitich, John Della Monica, Andrew Evans, Peter Schwalbenberg, Pamela Ferguson, Mary Caetta, and Katherine Vitko.

Chancellor's Advisory Committee: Archpriest Ian MacKinnon, Archpriest David Lowell, Archpriest Matthew Tate, Archpriest John Dresko, Archpriest David Brum, Peter Schwalbenberg, Mary Caetta, and Dimitri Solodow.

Gratitude- Archbishop Benjamin expressed his and the entire diocese's gratitude to Mary Caetta, diocesan treasurer, for her professional, committed, and excellent work in this crucial area of diocesan life and administration.

Diocesan Council Meetings - The next three meetings of the Diocesan Council were scheduled as follows: December 20, 2012; March 6, 2013; and June 5, 2013. All meetings will be held at Holy Trinity Cathedral, San Francisco, CA, and will begin at 10:30 a.m. Meetings of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee will be held at Holy Trinity Cathedral the day prior to each Diocesan Council meeting and will convene at 2:30 p.m.

2013 Diocesan Assembly - The 2013 Diocesan Assembly will be held October 8-10, 2013, and will be graciously hosted by Archpriest Lawrence Margitich and Saint Seraphim Church, Santa Rosa, CA.

Adjournment - His Eminence adjourned the meeting of the Diocesan Council at 11:35 a.m.